

Elk River Newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

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Three percent low interest loans available.

Applications are still be taken for grass waterway and grade stabilization projects.

Cost Share Opportunities for Hoops

There seems to be quite a bit of local buzz lately regarding hoop buildings for cattle. A major environmental benefit related to hoop buildings for cattle is elimination of manure runoff because cattle are fed and finished out completely under the hoop.

Cost share opportunities exist for hoop build-

ings through the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The EQIP 2008 payment rates for hoop buildings included a payment rate of \$150.00 per animal unit if the roofed system eliminated 100% of the open lots. In this case an entire open feedlot on the farmstead is converted to a confined roof system.



Photo courtesy of USDA-NRCS publication

If the roofed system was only for partial open lot reduction the payment rate was \$75.00 per animal unit.

In this case a portion of a feedlot on the farmstead is converted to a confined roof system.

All 2008 EQIP funds have been allocated for this year and at this time it is unknown if or how EQIP may change in 2009.

Applications for EQIP funding are ranked based off a series of national, state, and local questions. The ranking questions target treatment of livestock waste for existing operations. Applications where expansion of the livestock operation is planned is eligible, however they will rank lower.

Low-Cost Financing for Livestock Producers

Have you heard about those low interest loans that are available? The Livestock Water Quality Facilities Program provides low-cost financing for livestock producers to improve the environmental management of their facilities and Iowa's water quality.

A few of the projects and practices eligible through the program include: sediment basins, manure spreaders, skid loaders, lagoons, agitation equipment, pipes and pumps, storage or holding structures and assistance for nutrient management plan devel-

opment.

Loans are made in cooperation with a local lender through a linked deposit. Some conditions of the loan include:

- Interest rate of 3% for the life of the loan
- Minimum loan amount of \$10,000

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Applications Still Being Accepted

Do you have waterways that are cutting down each side? Are they higher in the center than on the sides? Do you have gullies entering cropland from non cropped areas?

If you do, you are in luck! Applications for financial assistance to construct grass waterways and grade stabilization struc-

tures are still being accepted by Clinton SWCD through the Elk River Water Quality Project.

Types of grade stabilization structures can include: rock chutes, water and sediment control basins and water impounding grade stab structures.

If you think you could benefit from one of these practices on

your farm contact your watershed coordinator today. Any new applications will be expected to be constructed this spring or fall due to the scheduled end of the project.



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- Maximum loan term of 20 years
- No penalty for pre-payment
- Loans may be used in conjunction with other federal and state grants or loans
- Loan amount up to 100% of project costs

The eligibility requirements for the program include: 1) total animal unit capacity of less than 1000 animal units 2) operations must be existing

production sites or replacement facilities 3) loans are only made if you own or have legal control of the existing operation for the duration of the loan 4) applicants must have a nutrient management plan or one developed as part of the application.

The program is part of the Iowa Water Quality Loan Fund and is operated by the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority in cooperation

with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Finance Authority.

If you think you can benefit from this program contact Leah or your local NRCS / Soil & Water Conservation District for a brochure or an application for the program. You can also visit the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority website at: www.iada.state.ia.us

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